

Pipeline safety affects citizens in each and every one of our States. In my home State of Nebraska, we experienced this just a couple months ago. In January, a ruptured natural gas pipeline exploded in the Old Market area of downtown Omaha. The disaster destroyed a historic building, and it did injure several people. The SAFE PIPES Act would encourage the use of advanced technology for pipeline mapping and help avoid accidents like this moving forward.

In California, the massive Aliso Canyon underground natural gas storage facility leak posed a serious public health threat and displaced hundreds of families from their homes. The SAFE PIPES Act would direct PHMSA to create crucial minimum standards for underground natural gas storage facilities. It would also establish an Aliso Canyon working group to ensure that similar incidents are avoided in the future. I appreciate the strong support provided by the California Senators, BARBARA BOXER and DIANNE FEINSTEIN, who helped draft the working group provisions there. They also serve as co-sponsors of our SAFE PIPES Act.

The Senate must pass this robust, bipartisan legislation. We all have a responsibility to prioritize not only the efficient permitting and construction of energy infrastructure but also the safety and the security of our Nation's extensive pipeline network.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING JOHN ORIZOTTI

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, John Orizotti, most famously known as "Pork Chop John," passed away on Monday in his Butte home at the age of 82. Montanans know John for his efforts to expand his restaurant's flourishing business. John bought Pork Chop John on 8 West Mercury Street in 1969, when sandwiches sold for 65 cents.

According to his oldest son Rick Orizotti, owning the shop was something he wanted to do his whole life, and he always kept his eye on it. Rick said: "He was truly very proud to be Pork Chop John. He was a man that really loved going to work, really worked hard."

John was born in Butte on September 25, 1933. He graduated from Butte High School in 1951 and married his high school sweetheart Mary Carol when he was 21 and she was 19.

He worked for his father-in-law Dan Piazzola at the Better Meat Market and then went on to open the Main Public Market in 1960 with Piazzola be-

fore buying Pork Chop John 9 years later. The restaurant has expanded to a second location on 2400 Harrison Avenue, which was formerly a Texaco gas station. After John retired 20 years ago, two of his sons, Ed and Tom Orizotti, took over the restaurant and currently run Pork Chop John.

I remember as a kid in Montana, it was the stop you made when you were on a trip. It didn't matter whether you were on a sports trip, band trip or a speech debate trip, you stopped at Pork Chop John's in Butte to grab something to eat.

In fact, the very first stop my wife and I made after we announced our campaign for the U.S. Congress in Bozeman was at Pork Chop John's in Butte to grab a sandwich.

All seven of Orizotti's children have worked at the restaurant at some point in their lives and the pork chop batter recipe remains a family secret to this day. The restaurant itself has been in the family for 47 years.

John was greatly beloved by many in his community. His past employees and friends have nothing but wonderful things to say about him, including how he would put his whole heart into all of his endeavors. Others called him gentle, caring, honest, and never having a bad word to say about anybody. He has probably been best described as one of the legends of Butte and a "Butte icon."

John Orizotti made a lasting impact on his family, community, and business. May his legacy of hard work and kind heart be forever honored and remembered.

Cindy and I offer our deepest condolences to the family.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FILLING THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, the sudden passing and tragic death of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Scalia leaves us with a vacancy to fill on our country's highest Court, but it shouldn't lead us to a yearlong political standoff.

Article II, section 2, of the Constitution is clear: The President shall nominate a Supreme Court Justice with the advice and consent of the Senate. It doesn't say "may." It doesn't say "maybe." It isn't followed by a clause which says that Senators don't have to do their jobs in an election year. It doesn't say anything about that. And

that is the tradition of our country, that Senators—we run for office willingly, enthusiastically. We work hard to get here. We take an oath of office. Every couple of weeks, we get a paycheck. And some are saying we simply shouldn't do our job and move forward with this nomination.

Complete refusal to consider any nominee from this President is outrageous. It is indefensible, and it is unprecedented in spite of what some of my colleagues would like to say. Don't take my word for it. Senator GRASSLEY, the Republican chairman of the Judiciary Committee, said as recently as 2008 that "the reality is that the Senate has never stopped confirming judicial nominees during the last few months of a President's term." The country didn't elect Barack Obama—whether you voted for him or against him—for a 3-year term or three-fifths of a term; the country elected him for a 4-year term.

Since the Civil War, no Supreme Court vacancy has been left open for a year. For the past century, the Senate has taken action on every single pending Supreme Court nominee.

I talk to people in Ohio all the time, Republicans and Democrats alike. I talked to a Republican today who supports Senator RUBIO for President and probably votes for Republicans for President in every election. He said: I just can't believe what MITCH MCCONNELL did. I can't believe my party—the people I vote for in Senate races and House races—would possibly say that we are not going to have a hearing on this nominee.

We are not even going to meet with this nominee. I mean, a number of Senate Republicans said: We won't even shake hands. We aren't even willing to meet with a Supreme Court nominee whom the President of the United States, under the Constitution, shall appoint, whom the President of the United States submits to the U.S. Senate.

Let's look at what has happened in the past. In 1988, which was President Reagan's final year in office, a Democratic majority unanimously confirmed Justice Anthony Kennedy. That was in 1988. Again, President Reagan submitted his name in 1988. He was confirmed by a Democratic Senate. In fact, the Senate has been confirming Justices in Presidential elections since our Nation's founding. Two of President Washington's nominees were confirmed during his last years in office. Since 1916, every pending Supreme Court nominee has either received a hearing or been confirmed quickly before a hearing even took place. Think about that. A pending Supreme Court nominee has never been denied a hearing in the history of the United States. The only exception is the nominees who were confirmed without a hearing. Yet, within hours—I think only minutes, actually—within less than an hour, I believe, of the announcement of